

DATE - TIME RECEIVED
27 Oct. '75 1057
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27 Oct. '75 1055



HURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT

73-17592-12

CASE NUMBER

DATE TIME
OF REPORT

27 October 1975 1058/5

25-19182-10

OFFENSE REPORT - TYPE OF OFFENSE		OFFENSE CHANGED TO		LOCATION OF OFFENSE AND/OR ARREST	
Burglary - Arson		3-9 OLM		Shelley Rd. N. Maytown Rd. 1/2 mi.	
WATCH	DISTRICT	ZONE	OFFICER	SER. NO.	OFFICER
1	1		Hansen	45	
COMPLAINANT		SEX	AGE	ADDRESS	
Maytown Cafe Inc.				Maytown Rd. Maytown	
VICTIM		SEX	AGE	ADDRESS	
Sylvestre, William		M		Rt. 1 Bx. 148 Tenino	
WITNESS NO. 1		SEX	AGE	ADDRESS	
Gosden, William E.		M		2710 14th Way S.W. Oly	
SUSPECT NO. 1		SEX	AGE	ADDRESS	
SUSPECTED <input type="checkbox"/>		CLOTHING			
ARRESTED <input type="checkbox"/>					
RACE	SEX	AGE	HGT.	WT.	BUILD
					COMP.
					EYES
					HAIR
					EMPLOYER
DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH		SOC. SEC. NO.	
OP. LICENSE NO.		OCCUPATION			
SUSPECT <input type="checkbox"/>	AUTO YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	LICENSE NO.
VICTIM <input type="checkbox"/>					STATE
WHERE STORED		LIST PROPERTY IN VEHICLE			VEHICLE IMPOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/>
					NOT IMPOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/>

1. Identify additional victims.
2. Identify additional witnesses.
3. Identify and/or describe additional suspects.
4. Describe property taken, showing serial numbers, identifying marks, and value of each.
5. Describe vehicle used by suspect and disposition.
6. Describe physical evidence, where found, by whom, and disposition.
7. Describe victim's injuries, and where medical exam occurred.
8. Report all property damaged - describe damage and indicate amount of loss.
9. Describe premises or vehicle of victim and where parked.
10. For burglary and larceny (car prowling) reports describe entry, where and how, and tool used.
11. Reconstruct incident (offense and/or arrest).
12. Indicate time and location where victims and witnesses may be contacted later, by follow-up investigators.
13. Entry and exit.

L (2) Dreddy, Delores Bx. # 943-6163
M (4) 4 boxes of 20 cal. 7.65 Argentine Munster cal. Norma Brand rifle cart-
N rtridges, 3 boxes of 100 rd. cal. .22 cal. Winchester brand cartridges, 1 box of
O 50 rd. .357 mag. cal. cartridges unk. brand, 1 Bra-beige double breasted
P corduroy dress coat at valued loss of \$125.00. No J.O. or serial marks on ab.
Q (1) 1 pole frame structure containing a cook stove, misc. furniture, ie:
R dresser, couch, chair lounge, bed spring and mattress, 7.5 x 55 cal. Swit Ruben
S brand 1911 Swiss Infantry Rifle, and misc. clothing burned completely at
T loss of \$1,125.00.
U (1) Premises located 1/2 mi. north of Maytown Rd. off Shelley Rd.
V (1) CP reports the burglary and arson of a pole frame dwelling off Shelley Rd.
W by with subject(s) between 100 hrs. 26 Oct. '75 and 100 hrs. date. Victim advises
X is joint owner with his father of 15 acres of land at the above location.
Y Victim states he erected a pole frame structure covered by heavy plastic
tarps on this land, and was living and using

OFFICER PREPARING REPORT

APPROVED

Date of Report 22 Oct. '75 District 1 Shift 1 Case Number 75-19182-10

Date of Occurance 26 Oct. '75 Officer Hansen 6-43 Type of Complaint Burglary
Arson

CPI Maytown Cafe Inc. Maytown Rd. Maytown Wash.

(U) same as his residence at living. Victim states the pole frame was entirely enclosed by the plastic tarp to appear as a house and this was victims residence. Victim states he left the residence at 1100 hrs. 26 Oct. '75 at which time all of the aforementioned items were in tact and in place. Victim states he has not had any major confrontation with any individuals in the recent past, although he has ran several hunters off of his property since 11 Oct. '75. This officer was contacted by Witness #1 at the scene who advised he had observed the burned out structure smoldering at 1230 hrs. on 26 Oct. '75. Witness #1 is an adjoining property owner who states he was up checking his property and discovered a dead deer. Witness #1 states he went to confront victim with this discovery, finding the smoldering structure. Witness #1 states he did not observe any other vehicles or persons in the area during this time. Victim stated that he and witness #1 were in dispute over property easement rights, but the confrontation had not been of a violent nature. During the period of this investigation, Rod Martin #90 of state game came to the area to question victim on the game violation. Witness #1 had found a live 2.65 cal. at the deer scene. This officer made contact with witness #2 who advised she had not seen any strange vehicles or persons in the area on 26 Oct. '75, however she was gone between 1300 hrs. and 1500 hrs. This officer had made contact with Mr. Sherm Frase of the State Fire Marshalls office who investigated the scene for arson. Mr. Frase determined the fire was of a criminal nature by person(s) unk. and would be investigating further and would forward a copy of his report to the Sheriff's Dept. This officer met Mr. Frase at 1330 hrs. date where

Rene C. Hansen 6-43

Date of Report 27 Oct. '75 District 1 Shift 1 Case Number 75-19182-10
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Arson

(II) This officer escorted Mr. Frase to Witness #1, father where a statement was taken from Witness #1 by Mr. Frase. Mr. Frase took photographs of the scene and tests taken indicated that flammable liquid had been spread over the area for aid in the fires ignition. Victim stated that he had left a 2 gal. can of kerosene and a 1 gal. can of white gas approx. 20 ft. outside from the structure. Upon discovery at noon hrs date, both cans were found empty and inside the structure without their perspective caps on and no sign of explosion. Mr. Frase believes the contents of these cans were the liquids used to kindle the blaze. Mr. Frase statement from Witness #1 was to the effect of the describe statements of events in this report. This officer searched the area for physical evidence having negative results due to the cremation of the scene and possible evidence therein. Further investigation pending, no further action taken at this time.

Paul L. Hansen C-45

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

73-17592-12
OLYMPIA OFFICE
INSURANCE BUILDING
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98504
753-3805, AREA CODE 206

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Title of case WILLIAM ARTHUR SYLVESTRE File No. SFM 75-355
Date of fire October 26, 1975 at ? M. Investigated by Sherman Frase
Location Off Shelley Road Maytown Thurston
(street) (city) (county)
Owner William Arthur Sylvestre Occupant Same
Contact at:
Rt. 1, Box 148, Tenino; Phone: 264-2189

Insurance Company	Policy No.	Effective Dates	Coverage	Amount
NONE				

Previous fire record _____
Loss payable to _____
Recent increases, changes _____
Agent _____
Adjuster _____
Property involved 17' x 23' pole structure used as part-time dwelling.
Where fire started Dresser, Bed Mattress and On Chair Cushion.
Probable cause Incendiary (3 sets).
Extent of damage To above items and Plastic Visquine Walls and Roof.
Injuries or deaths None
Final disposition of case Closed. No Fire Department Response.
Details THE FIRE

Sometime, on October 26, 1975. a person or persons entered the shed-like part-time dwelling of William Sylvestre and set it afire. White gas and Kerosene, which had been stored outside and away from the structure, had been poured over the bed mattress, dresser, and chair cushion.

On the afternoon of October 26, 1975, William Earl Cosden, Jr., of 2710 - 114th Way, S.W., Olympia, was on his Maytown property. Cosden's property abuts Sylvestre's and Cosden was approximately 25 yards from Sylvestre's dwelling when he could see smoke. Cosden stated he went over to the dwelling, (the time being approximately 5:30 P.M.) and found a smouldering mess. Stated he found a rifle, (stock burnt) and called the Game Department. Apparently Cosden, earlier that day, had found a dead fawn, which had been shot on his property and thought this might be the poacher's gun. This information from Cosden's statement of October 27, 1975.

THE STRUCTURE

This seventeen foot by twenty-three foot structure was more like a shed or a shack. It was framed, (walls and roof) with small diameter tree poles. Plastic Visquine was attached to the poles and served as the walls and roof. The structure was floorless. Parts of carpet or rugs were used to cover portions of the ground area within this structure. The bed was simply a mattress on a bedspring resting on the ground. Heat was provided by a small wood heater and light was furnished by Kerosene lamps.

THE INVESTIGATION

This writer arrived at the Maytown Cafe and met with Thurston County Deputy Sheriff Ray Hansen at 1:31 P.M. on October 27, 1975. Information was received from Deputy Hansen and when this writer followed him to the scene.

The fire scene was approximately two hundred feet up a hill by trail and out of sight from the road. However, we first met the owner, Sylvestre, waiting for us. Sylvestre stated he and his wife had been living here since about the last of August of 1975. Stated they had planned to build a house and were using the "shed" as a present part-time dwelling. Stated he had been on the scene on October 26, 1975, at approximately 11:00 A.M. and everything seemed okay. Stated he had heard people shooting shotguns some distance away. Stated he came upon his fire scene about 10:00 A.M. on October 27, 1975. Stated some ammunition was missing along with a heavy coat and sleeping bag. Sylvestre noted the can of White Gas and Kerosene to be inside the shed. The capless White Gas can was found lying on the center area (ground) and the Kerosene can found just inside the shed. Stated his Coleman stove gas tank cap was missing from the tank and the tank was empty.

This writer noted, on viewing the scene, that the Visquine roof was almost totally burned away except for a small area extreme west end of the roof. However, portions of the north and south areas, and about all of the west Visquine wall area was intact. The dresser in the northeast bedroom area had been completely consumed. The bedsprings had completely lost

their tempering and were noted to be completely flat. This writer probed and tested the bedspring area and the dresser area with a Johnson Williams Combustible Gas Indicator which registered up to 100 parts per million in both areas on the ground.

Sylvestre stated his burnt rifle was 75-55 calibre of swiss make. Stated he didn't know why Cosden would remove his rifle from the shed unless Cosden thought he was the poacher who shot the fawn. Stated that he has talked to Cosden several times in the past and figures Cosden didn't like his lifestyle. Sylvestre believes Cosden was upset with him because he wouldn't allow a road easement through his property for Cosden's benefit.

Deputy Hansen and this writer then drove to Cosden's residence, 2710 - 114th Way, S.W., Olympia, but were told by his wife that he was at his father's house. We then drove to Route 18, Box 265-A, home of William Cosden, Sr. Arriving at 3:21 P.M., October 27, 1975, William Earl Cosden, Jr., date of birth December 19, 1946, then gave us a voluntary statement as noted in the first of this report. Cosden did refer to Sylvestre as a hippie and poacher, but denied having any trouble with him.

CONCLUSION

This uninsured shack was still an abode of William Sylvestre, no matter how it was constructed or its appearance. This fire was of an incendiary nature with at least three cuts with flammable liquid used as an accelerant. This case is now closed.

SHERMAN FRASE

October 28, 1975